

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 05796 181711Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-02 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-20 OES-09
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 PA-02 /144 W
-----035377 191803Z /42

R 181625Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9156
INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

UNCLAS QUITO 5796

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, EC
SUBJECT: BREAK IN TRANS-ANDEAN PIPELINE

1. A RUPTURE IN THE TRANS-ANDEAN PIPELINE ON AUGUST 14 AT ABOUT 5:30 A.M. HAS CAUSED THE FLOW OF CRUDE PETROLEUM FROM THE TEXACO/CEPE (STATE PETROLEUM CORPORATION) FIELDS IN THE ORIENTE TO FALL FROM 217,000 BPD TO A LEVEL NEAR 30,000 BPD (THE REMAINING PRODUCTION COMES FROM FIELDS DOWN THE LINE).

2. THE BREAK OCCURRED WHERE THE PIPELINE CROSSES THE BOTTOM OF THE AGUARICO RIVER. HEAVY RAINFALL ON AUGUST 14 CAUSED THE RIVER TO RISE TO A LEVEL OF 20 FEET, SOME 15 FEET ABOVE NORMAL, THUS DELAYING REPAIRS. TEXACO NOW EXPECTS TO HAVE THE LINE BACK IN FULL OPERATION BY ABOUT NOON ON AUGUST 19, FOR A TOTAL DOWN-TIME OF 5.25 DAYS. WITH THE DAILY OUTPUT LOSS OF 187,000 HPD, THE TOTAL PRODUCTION LOSS SHOULD APPROXIMATE 980,000 BARRELS, MEANING A DECLINE OF 31,000 BPD FOR THE AUGUST DAILY PRODUCTION FIGURE.

3. TEXACO PLANS TO BUILD A STAND-BY PARALLEL LINE UNDER THE RIVER AS A PRECAUTION AGAINST FURTHER PROBLEMS IN THE SAME SPOT.

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4. THIS LATEST BREAK, FOLLOWING A FEW MINOR ONES EARLIER THIS YEAR, UNDERSCORES THE VULNERABILITY OF ECUADOR'S ECONOMY SHOULD THE LINE BE SHUT DOWN FOR AN EVEN LONGER PERIOD OF TIME.
GONZALEZ

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM PIPELINES, OIL SPILLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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From: QUITO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780848/aaaabobc.tel
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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SAS ID: 1694117
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BREAK IN TRANS-ANDEAN PIPELINE
TAGS: ENRG, EC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9e5de360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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